

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1205  
By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Emerson Beck "Buzz"  
Tanner of Union City.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Emerson Beck "Buzz" Tanner; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tanner was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born in Obion County on June 17, 1921, he was the son of the late Walker Tanner and Dorothy Beck Tanner; and

WHEREAS, in 1943, he completed an undergraduate degree in Business Administration at the University of Tennessee, where he was President of the Student Body and a member of the Advanced Reserve Officer Training Corps; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating, he answered his nation's call to duty during World War II by accepting a commission as a second lieutenant in the Infantry of the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, he served gallantly in the fight to defend the world against tyranny, earning a Purple Heart and numerous awards and decorations while serving in France, Germany, and Belgium and helping to quell Hitler's last great offensive during the Battle of the Bulge; and

WHEREAS, this patriot received an honorable discharge in 1946 with the rank of Captain, but he continued to employ his time and considerable talent in the Tennessee National Guard, retiring at the rank of Major in 1964; and

WHEREAS, after returning home from World War II, Mr. Tanner joined his father in business at Union City Insurance Agency, where he remained affiliated with the business for more than a half century until his passing, earning the utmost respect and admiration of his peers and clients; and

WHEREAS, Buzz Tanner was widely known to be a leader of the highest merit, and his wisdom was in high demand throughout the region, as he served as Director of the Federal Home Bank in Cincinnati, a member of the Obion County Industrial Development Corporation and the Obion County Chamber of Commerce, and as President of the Tennessee Savings & Loan League, President of the Insurers of Tennessee, and President of the Union City Rotary Club, which also elected him as a prestigious Paul Harris Fellow; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tanner is survived by his wife, Carolyn Hubbard Tanner, whom he married in 1998. He was preceded in death by his wife of fifty-four years, the late Edith Sumners Tanner. From that union were born three sons, Congressman John Tanner of Union City, Dr. Robert T. Tanner of Waynesboro, and Mr. Rodger Tanner of Union City. He was also survived by several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, he will be sorely missed also by his brother, Bill Tanner, and numerous close friends and family members; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tanner leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Emerson Beck "Buzz" Tanner, reflecting fondly upon his unimpeachable character, his impeccable professionalism, his laudable service as a member of the United States Military and a civic leader, and his living with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Tanner.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.